

Message Text

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16

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSCE-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 OMB-01 /080 W

----- 049344

R 090650Z APR 75

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3538

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 651

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, UR

SUBJECT: SINO-SOVIET BORDER NEGOTIATIONS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR TOLSTIKOV APRIL 7, USLO CHIEF BUSH ASKED TOLSTIKOV WHETHER LATTERTHOUGHT ANYTHING GOOD COULD COME OUT OF SINO-SOVIET BORDER NEGOTIATIONS. TOLSTIKOV REPLIED FLATLY, "NYET." HE STATED THAT, IF ANYTHING, CHINESE POSITION HAD BECOME EVEN HARDER THAN HAD BEEN THE CASE BEFORE AND SOVIETS WERE GETTING NOWHERE. IN EFFECT, CHINESE WERE CALLING UPON SOVIETS TO ACCEPT CHINESE CLAIM TO TERRITORIES IN DISPUTE AND THEN TALK, WHILE SOVIET POSITION WAS TO LAY MAPS BELONGING TO EACH SIDE ON THE TABLE AND TO TRY TO REACH SOME REAL AGREEMENT.

2. TOLSTIKOV MENTIONED THAT CHINESE SIDE IN TALKS WOULD ACCEPT SOVIET INITIATIVESWHICH FELL WITHIN SCOPE OF CHINESE NEGOTIATING GUIDELINES, BUT REJECTED OUT OF HAND ANYTHING GOING BEYOND THOSE GUIDELINES.IN TOLSTIKOV'S OPINION, CHINESE WERE BEING HAMPERED BY FACT THAT THESEGUIDELINES WERE OUTMODED--MAO TSE-TUNG HAD
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PERSONALLY LAID THEM DOWN ABOUT THE TIME THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER

HAD FIRST OPENED CONTACT WITH CHINA (THIS, OF COURSE, WAS IN WAKE OF 1969 BORDER CLASHES) AND THESE REMAINED INFLEXIBLE REGARDLESS OF CHANGES IN INTERNATIONAL SITUATION. TOLSTIKOV APPEARED TO FEEL THAT MAO TSE-TUNG WAS SOMEHOW REMOVED FROM DIRECT CONTROL OVER POLICY (PERHAPS DUE TO HEALTH), BUT NOBODY DARED TO MAKE ANY CHANGES IN THE EXISTING LINE.

3. TOLSTIKOV NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE ATTITUDE OF THE CHINESE PARTICIPATING IN THE TALKS REMAINED QUITE FRIENDLY. SHORTLY AFTER SOVIET NEGOTIATOR ILICHEV ARRIVED, HIS OPPOSITE NUMBER ON THE CHINESE SIDE (VICE FOREIGN MINISTER YU CHAN) WENT INTO THE HOSPITAL FOR AN OPERATION, AND THE CHINESE QUICKLY DESIGNATED SOMEONE ELSE TO SIT IN PENDING YU CHAN'S RETURN. THE ATMOSPHERE IN THE TALKS WAS ALSO QUITE GOOD REGARDLESS OF THE FACT THAT NO PROGRESS WAS BEING MADE.

4. WHEN ASKED FOR HIS OPINION AS TO WHY BOTH SIDES WERE WILLING TO CONTINUE THE TALKS DESPITE THE SEEMING IMPASSE, TOLSTIKOV EXPRESSED

THE VIEW THAT, "WHILE THE TALKS CONTINUE, THERE IS LESS CHANGE OF A FIGHT."

BUSH

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